



January 20, 2021

CES / CNMJ PROGRAMS

CIEE Study Center
in Prague, Czech Republic

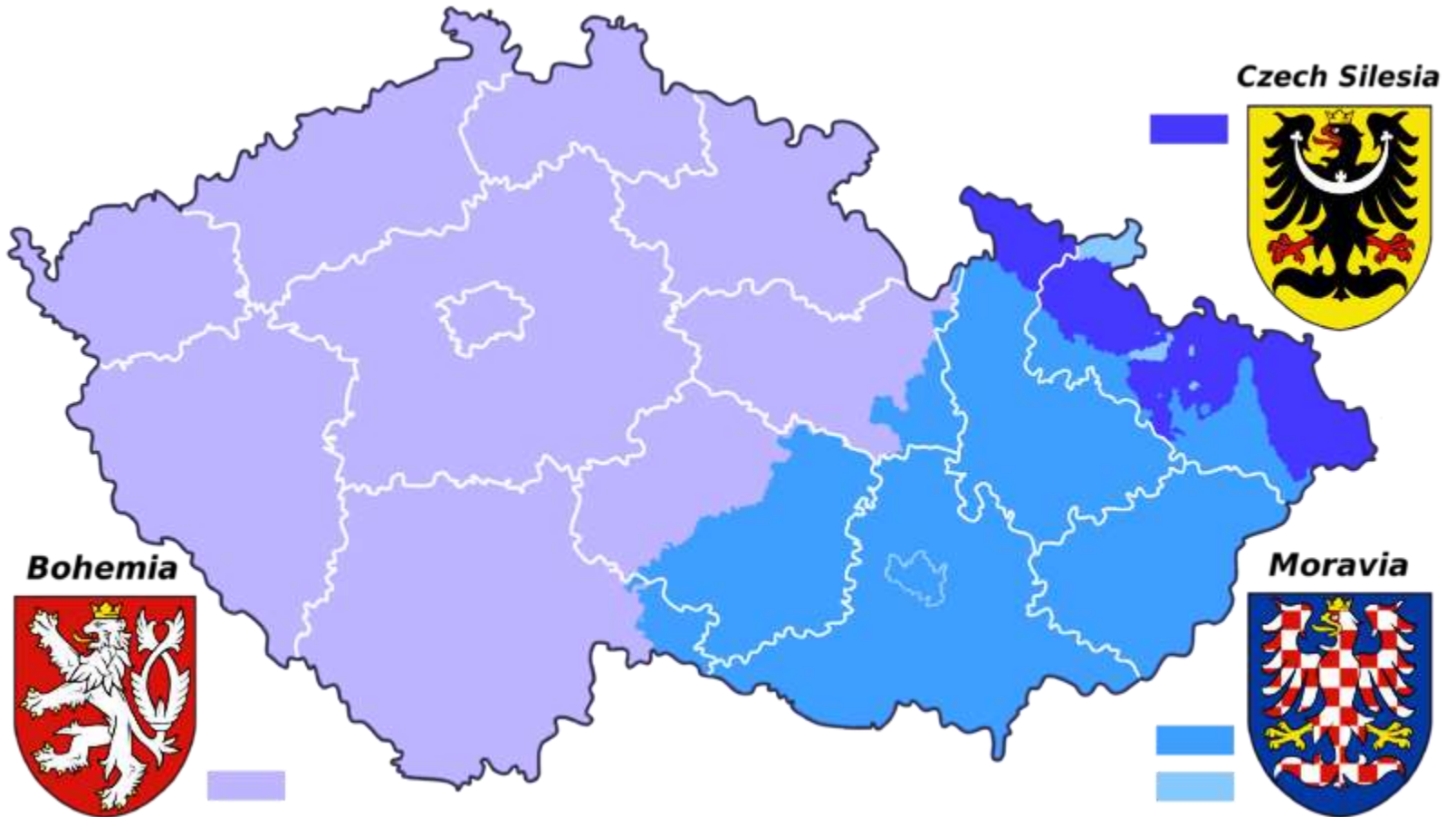
CZECH HISTORY:
An Introduction

Czech History – A (Very) Quick Introduction

- 1. A nation emerges: The ‘Father’ of Czech culture, St Wencelas**
- 2. A cultural and political centre: The ‘Greatest Czech’, Emporer Charles IV**
- 3. Religious Reform – Jan Hus**
- 4. Counter-Reformation – The Habsburgs**
- 5. Czech National Revival**
- 6. Czechoslovakia**
- 7. Nazism**
- 8. Communism**
- 9. Return to democracy**

CZECH LANDS

Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia



SVATÝ VÁCLAV / ST WENCESLAS (c.907-935)

- National patron
- Feast day is national holiday
- Přemyslid dynasty
- Christianity
- Czech-German relations
- killed by his brother Boleslav
- Legend of 'Good King' who sought to protect distinct Czech nation

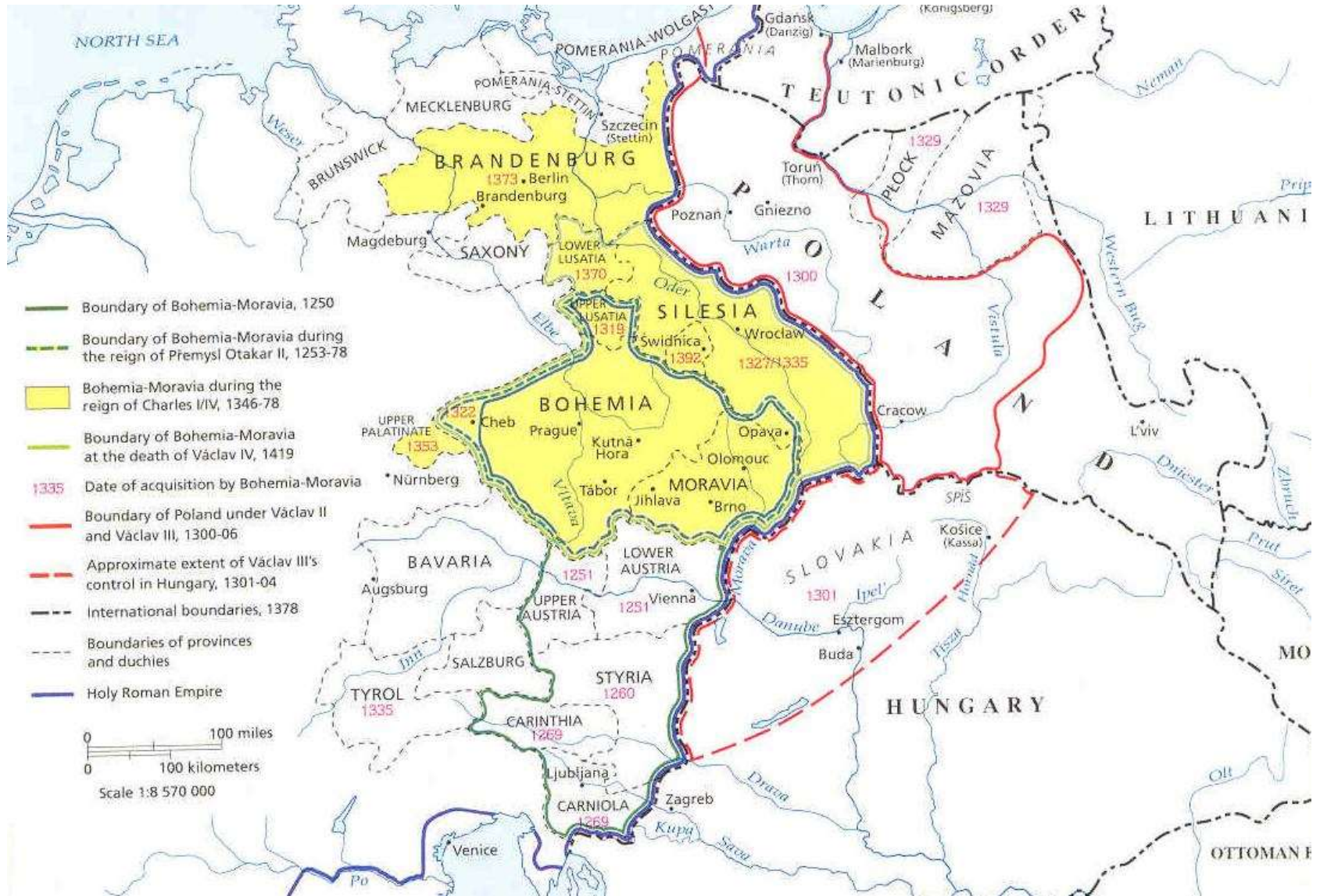


KAREL IV. / CHARLES IV (1316-78)

- **King of Bohemia who achieved unprecedented European status**
- **Holy Roman Emperor**
- **Patron of scientists, artists and architects**
- **Strongest legacy of any Czech monarch**
- **Regularly voted 'Greatest Czech'**



KAREL IV. / CHARLES IV



KAREL IV. / CHARLES IV

Charles University (1348)



Charles Bridge (975311357)
foundation stone laid
on 9th July at 5:31 in 1357



KAREL IV. / CHARLES IV



Karlštejn Castle



Bohemian Crown Jewels



The Chapel of the Holy Cross

JAN HUS /JOHN HUS (c.1369-1415)

- Major figure in early Reformation
- Challenged Church on both beliefs and organisation
- Burned as heretic – Council of Constance
- Hussite Wars (1419-34)



HABSBURG Dynasty - RUDOLF II

- **1575 Czech throne**
- **Prague Castle – main residence**
- **Culture and Science**
- **alchemy, astrology, astronomy**
– early impetus for later scientific revolution



BATTLE OF WHITE MOUNTAIN 1620

- **Thirty Years' War (1618)**
between Protestant and Catholic states
- **Decisive defeat of Czech protestantism**
- **execution of 27 leaders**
- **Followed by intense Counter-Reformation**
- **Prague loses central position**

BATTLE OF WHITE MOUNTAIN



CZECH NATIONAL REVIVAL

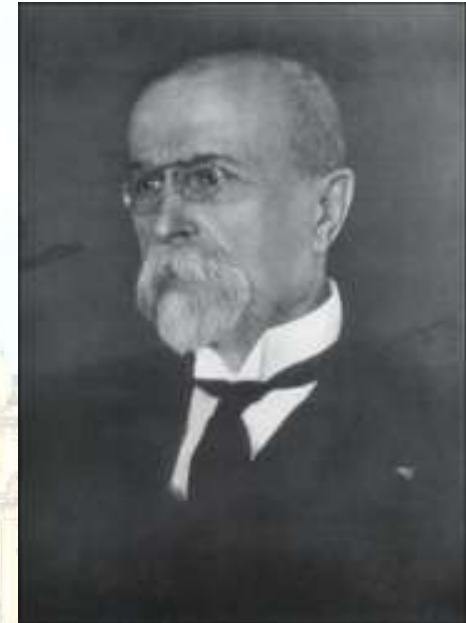
- late 18th & 19th centuries
- Czech language, literature, culture revived
- Voices of women and ordinary people heard for first time.
- Foundation of major institutions:
Národní divadlo (1883), Národní muzeum (1818)
- Municipal House
- Czech lands become industrial centre

CZECH NATIONAL REVIVAL

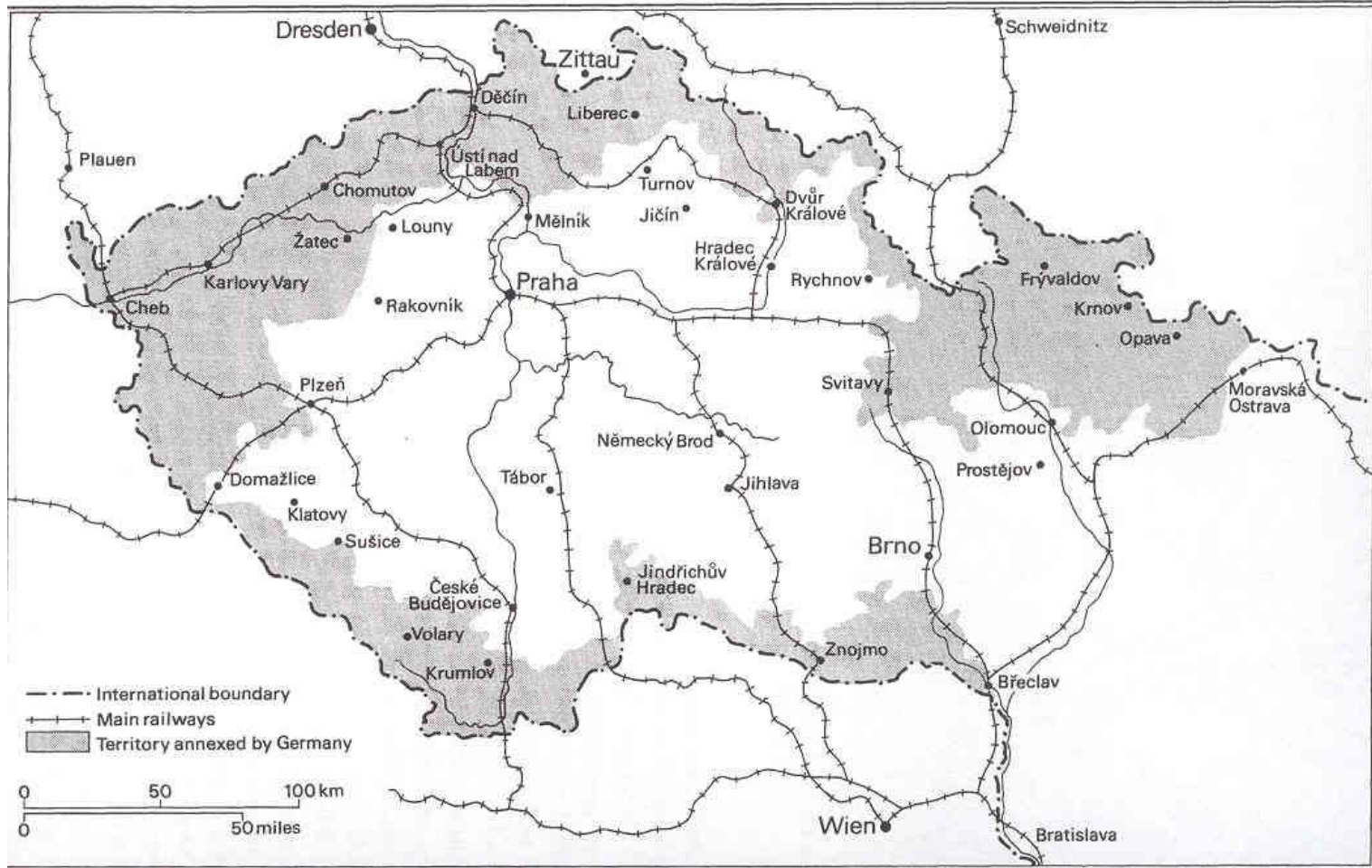


CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

- **October 28, 1918**
- **Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk – defining figure of 1st Republic**
- **Boundaries established in Versailles**
- **Significant minorities in addition to Czechs, Slovaks and Silesian (German speaking, Hungarian, Ruthenian)**
- **industrial, intellectual and artistic boom**



1938 MUNICH AGREEMENT



11. Borders of Czech Lands, 21 November 1938.

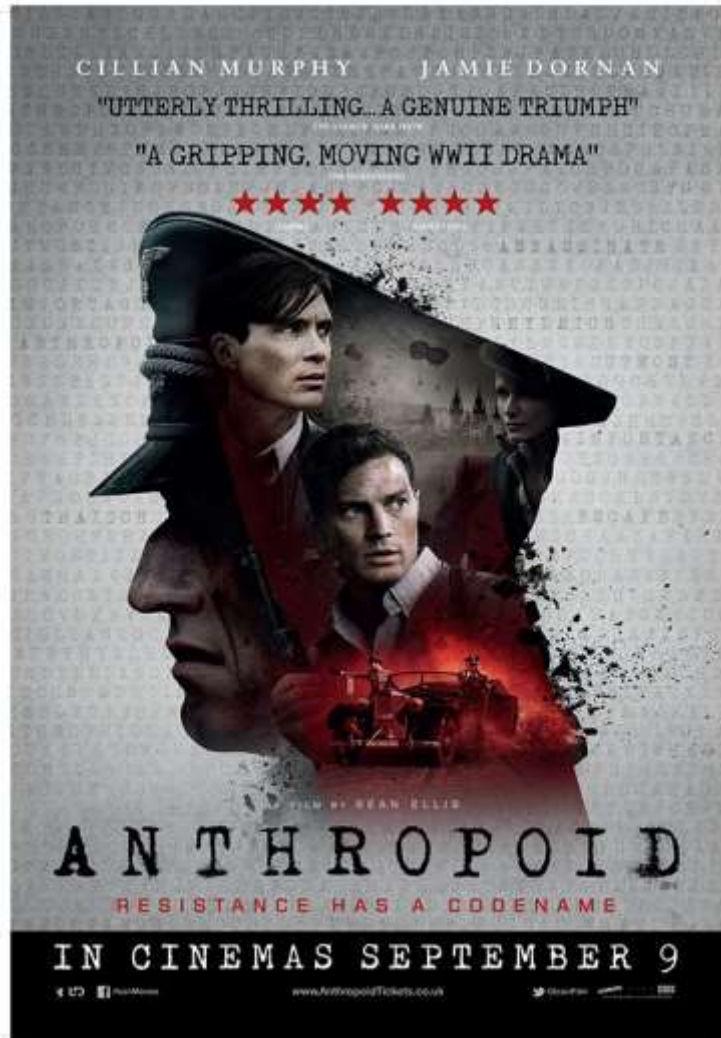
WORLD WAR II



- Country dismantled into 4 parts
- 263,000 Jews murdered (3/4)
- Protector Reinhart Heydrich
- Lidice reprisal
- US forces stop in Eastern Bohemia, Soviets in rest of country



WORLD WAR II



COMMUNISM

- 1948 Coup d'état
- Klement Gottwald
- 1950s political trials – Milada Horáková
- political cleansing

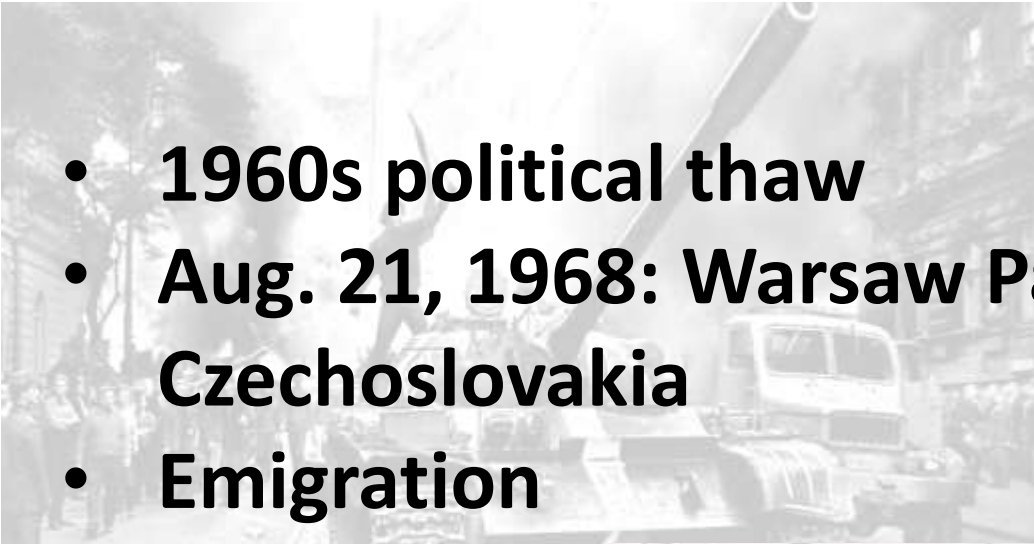


COMMUNISM 1950s



PRAGUE SPRING & AFTERMATH

- 1960s political thaw
- Aug. 21, 1968: Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia
- Emigration
- 1969 self-immolations: Jan Palach, Jan Zajíc
- 1970s & 80s Normalization
- Charter 77
- Ongoing persecution



PRAGUE SPRING & AFTERMATH



VELVET REVOLUTION 1989

- **November 17, 1989: student demonstration**
- **Václav Havel elected President**
- **January 1, 1993: Czech Republic and Slovak Republic**
- **1999 NATO membership**
- **2004 EU membership**



VELVET REVOLUTION



Close Transatlantic ties



And the future...?



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